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Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1946



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Lunesdale Rural District Council

REPORT

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Lunesdale Rural District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Lunesdale Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1946 on the Health and Sanitary conditions in your District.

This Report includes that of your Sanitary Inspector and his Staff, so far as their activities relate to Health and Sanitary matters.

During the year, Mr. E. Ellis, who had served the Council as Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for upwards of forty years, retired on superannuation. I regret to lose Mr. Ellis's valuable services.

Mr. L. J. Pearson also resigned his appointment as Assistant Sanitary Inspector, on taking up an appointment as Sanitary Inspector at Wigton.

I have to state that owing to the fire in January, 1946, all previous records were destroyed. Through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer, we have in some cases succeeded in obtaining available duplicate records. The absence of these records has caused great inconvenience.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. TOMB,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. A. TOMB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

E. ELLIS, Cert. R.S.I.
(Retired, June, 1946).

A. WARBURTON, (appointed June, 1946.)

Sanitary Inspector's Assistant :

L. J. PEARSON, Cert. R.S.I., Sanitary Science,
Cert. Meat and Foods, Liverpool University School Hygiene.
(Resigned, August, 1946.)

1. General Statistics of the Area :

AREA of the District (Acres)	.....	.....	.....	76,099
POPULATION (Census 1931)	.....	.....	.....	6,575
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate 1946.)				6,655
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)			.....	1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1946)			.....	1,904
RATEABLE VALUE	.....	.....	.....	£44,159
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE			.....	£173.25325

The chief industries of the inhabitants of the District are :—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Brick Manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

			Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate) .....	.....	.....	124	71	53
(Illegitimate) .....	.....	.....	5	3	2
TOTAL			129	74	55
Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated					
population mid-1946 .....	.....	.....	19.3		
Still Births .....	.....	.....	3	1	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)					
births .....	.....	.....	22		
Deaths .....	.....	.....	81	42	39
Death-rate per 1,000 estimated					
population .....	.....	.....	12.1		
Deaths from Puerperal causes :—					
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis			NIL		
Other Maternal causes .....	.....	.....	NIL		
TOTAL Maternal mortality			NIL		
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—					
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births .....	.....	.....			23
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births					24
Illigitimate Infants per 1,000 Illigitimate Live Births					NIL
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	.....	.....			8
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	.....	.....			NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					NIL
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years age)					NIL

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1946

					Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Cancer	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4	8
Cerebral Hemorrhage	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	7	11
Heart Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	14	27
Other Circulatory Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	4	7
Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—	2
Gastric Ulcer	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	3
Appendicitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	—	4
Suicide	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1	1
Other Violent Causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	1
All Other Causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	6	10

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death-rate from cancer	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
1941-45	14.2	12.3	0.14	1.60	8.42	8.23	43
1945	14.6	12.7	Nil	1.73	Nil	Nil	21
1946	19.3	12.1	0.15	1.20	Nil	Nil	23

Increase or Decrease

in 1946 on—

5 yrs. average,

1941-45 +5.2 —0.2 +0.01 —0.40 —8.42 —8.23 —20

Previous year +47 —0.6 +0.15 —0.53 Nil Nil +2

Population 6,655.

Mean of 5 yrs.

TUBERCULOSIS

5 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year :—
(all Pulmonary—three males and 2 females).

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Other Forms		Respiratory		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	3		—		2		—	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1946.

Diseases	Under 1	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65 & Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	1	—	—	—	10
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	4
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio- encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED—18.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table shows the position in regard to the number of children immunised against Diphtheria since the beginning of the year 1941.

Persons inoculated each year from 1941-46.

Age in years on the 31st Dec. of the corresp'd yr.	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	
Under 1	2	1	1	4	1	—	Total Inoculated under 5 yrs. on 31st Dec., 1946
1	23	16	30	12	21	16	
2	24	12	14	4	15	8	
3	37	15	8	4	2	5	
4	35	9	7	1	1	3	
5	68	14	11	2	4	3	Total Inoculated aged 5-14 yrs. on 31st Dec., 1946
6	70	6	7	1	—	—	
7	76	12	10	2	—	—	
8	74	15	5	—	4	—	
9	63	10	5	—	—	1	
10	72	11	8	1	—	1	Total Inoculated aged 15 yrs. and over on 31st Dec., 1946
11	52	7	4	—	—	—	
12	45	11	6	2	—	—	
13	49	2	1	—	1	—	
14	8	—	2	1	—	—	
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	257
Total each yr	699	141	119	34	49	37	GRAND TOTAL 1079

All children between 1 yr. and 15 yrs. are offered free immunisation. Sessions are held at various places in the District (e.g., schools). There is a rota of general practitioners engaged by the District Council to perform immunisation.

Provision has been made for immunisation in homes by private practitioners, where children cannot attend centres.

The Prophylactic used is A.P.T. in two doses at a month's interval.

WATER SUPPLY.

The position regarding water supplies in the Area is reasonably satisfactory. The chief source of supply is obtained from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct which serves the major portion of the following Parishes, viz. :—

Arkholme-with-Cawood; Borwick; Burrow-with-Burrow Cantsfield; Caton-with-Littledale; (Emergency supply only); Gressingham; Halton; Ireby; Leck; Nether Kellet; Melling-with-Wrayton; Tatham; Tunstall; Wennington; and Whittington.

The Council also control two supplies, one serving parts of the Parishes of Hornby-with-Farleton and Wray-with-Botton, and the other a part of the Parish of Caton, whilst at Caton there is also an emergency connection to the Thirlmere Aqueduct.

Part of the Parish of Over Kellet obtains water from wells and pumps, and the remainder is a piped supply taken from the Carnforth Water Company's Main passing through the village, but it is hoped, in the very near future, to extend the Council's Thirlmere supply to cover a large portion of this Parish.

Several owners of farm premises have again taken advantage of the War Agricultural Committee's Scheme for assistance in providing piped supplies to their properties, and it is hoped to provide facilities of this nature to other outlying districts as and when labour and materials become more readily available.

In the table set out below is given an estimate of the supplies to property in the individual Parishes together with the population so served.

Water Supplies to Houses in District :

Parish	From Public Mains		Private Supplies.	
	Direct to Houses.	Population Served.	No. of Houses.	Population Served.
Arkholme	31	101	40	150
Borwick	28	95	16	60
Burrow	27	96	17	64
Cantsfield	8	27	14	52
Caton	337	1162	52	95
Cloughton	Nil	Nil	36	134
Gressingham	11	37	33	123
Halton	250	868	19	71
Hornby	96	313	18	67
Ireby	10	34	6	22
Nether Kellet	67	201	Nil	Nil
Over Kellet	27	95	77	289
Leck	30	92	22	82
Melling	47	156	7	26
Quernmore	37	119	130	487
Roeburndale	Nil	Nil	19	68
Tatham	39	126	76	285
Tunstall	24	80	4	16
Wennington	28	95	2	7
Whittington	66	190	29	108
Wray	106	347	28	105
Total Whole District	1,259	4,234	645	2,411

SEWERAGE.

There are no modern or up to date sewerage treatment works in any part of the Area, sewerage being disposed of by means of small tanks in the various villages, but one cannot conscientiously say that these tanks are efficient or adequate in any degree.

The Council's Consulting Engineer is at present engaged in preparing drainage and sewerage schemes for almost the whole of the District, and if these can be put in hand in the near future one feels that a great step forward will be made in the Health Services of the Area.

SANITARY ACCOMODATION.

No. of Middens :—	1,032	No. of Closets attached :—	
No. of Pail Closets :—	63		1,190
No. of houses on water carriage system :—	960	No. of Ashbins :—	2,093
		No. of Fresh water Closets :—	1,004

Conversions during 1946 :—

No. of privy closets to fresh water closets :—	7
No. of fixed refuse receptacles to moveable ashbins :—	51

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse collection is carried out by the Council's refuse collection staff and one mechanically propelled vehicle, and refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on tips owned by the Council.

HOUSING.

The Council have in hand an extensive house building programme and it is proposed to construct new houses in almost every Parish in the District.

Nine houses were completed by private individuals, and two new houses by the Council during the year under review, but it will be appreciated that considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the labour and materials necessary to push on with this work.

The general housing conditions in the District are fairly satisfactory, but much of the older property is not of a good standard, whilst in a few cases there is a tendency to overcrowding. Statistics regarding this latter are not by any means complete, as these have had to be built up again following the destruction of the Council Offices in the early part of the year, but some 16 houses, concerning 29 families or 123 people were found to be overcrowded within the meaning of the Act.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

No. of premises inspected during the year :—	215
No. of visits made for purpose :—	359
No. inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations :—	64.
No. of inspections made for purpose :—	106
No. of premises found not in all respects reasonably fit :—	130
No. of premises rendered fit by informal action :—	147

It has been found that the majority of owners of property would be only too willing to carry out works of repair and re-conditioning if materials and labour could be obtained, but much of this work will have to be left in abeyance until such time as matters are more normal.

The comments made on the carrying out of the Housing Survey in my Report for last year are still applicable, this work cannot be done with the staff at present in the Council's employ.

INSPECTION OF SHOPS.

All shops are inspected at least twice per year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1936, and the Public Health Act, 1936, and no action has been necessary under these Acts.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are no private slaughter houses in use as such in the Area, slaughtering has been centralized under the Ministry of Food, at Lancaster Corporation Abattoirs, and inspection is carried out by the Staff employed there.

All food shops and premises where food is prepared are regularly visited and the co-operation of shopkeepers in notifying suspected foodstuffs is appreciated.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There are 417 Dairy Farms in the Area, but again the Staff at its present strength cannot possibly visit these premises as often as is required under the Milk and Dairies Order. 181 visits have been made to farms during the year.

Conditions have not materially altered during the year, owing to labour and material difficulties, although improvements to premises have been carried out in a few cases.

The position with regard to registration of these premises is still in the unsatisfactory state commented upon in previous reports and until the Government make a definite statement as to its policy on the control of premises of this nature, it appears that very little can be done in the matter.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities :—

Swabs for Diphtheria are examined at the Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital, Slyne Road.

Other Bacteriological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the Royal Infirmary, Preston.

Ambulance Facilities :—

For Infectious Diseases, the Joint Hospital Board Ambulance is available.

Other cases : Lancaster Corporation (Watch Committee)

Ambulance.

Professional Nursing :—

The district is provided for by the District Nursing Associations.

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

Visits have been made on 23 occasions to premises during the year. Four notices, two with regard to cleanliness, and two relating to sanitary accommodation have been issued, but one of the latter had not been complied with at the end of the year.

